

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 and M.P.E.P. § 714.16. A Notice of Allowance was issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on September 26, 2006. The issue fee payment is due December 26, 2006, and has **not** yet been paid.

The Notice of Allowance indicates that claims 1, 3–9, 15, 17–23, 26, and 27 have been allowed. By this paper, claim 15 is amended to correct a mistaken omission of a word in line 3 and to correct a misspelling in line 4. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of these amendments.

The amendments aid clarity, do not require additional search or examination and do not adversely affect the patentability of the allowed claims. Entry of these amendments is believed to be appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Applicants request early indication that this Rule 312 Amendment has been entered. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-4675.

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Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
By: /Ankur Parekh/
Ankur Parekh
Registration No. 56,060

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile